

APR 13 2006

Danielle Ramos

April 11, 2006

Honorable Louis Abrams, Chairperson
Charter Commission, County of Kauai
4444 Rice Street, suite 235
Lihue, HI 96766

Re: Proposed Charter Amendment #11, Salary Commission

Dear Chair Abrams and Members of the Charter Commission:

Proposed Charter Amendment #11 states that the recommendations of the Kauai County Salary Commission would be effective unless vetoed by 5 of 7 members of the Kauai County Council. My letter fully supports this proposed Charter Amendment.

We now have the staff in a County department making more than the Department Director and Deputy Director in multiple departments. An example of this is the Sewer System Manager who makes more than the Director of Public Works. The Sewer System Manager has less responsibility than the Director or Deputy Director and the advantage of civil service. It took the County more than one year to fill the Director of Public Works position because of the compensation has not changed in a number of years. We need to have strong, competent administrators for the County departments and we need to compensate them fairly and adequately.

The Salary Commission made recommendations to the County Council in 2004 which were not acted upon. This put every Department head further behind in compensation. Proposed Charter Amendment #11 would move us much closer to being able to provide compensation equal to the position the person holds. Please add this amendment to the November ballot for the voters to make the change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Danielle Ramos', with a stylized 'D' and 'R'.

Danielle Ramos